

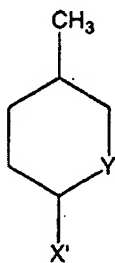
IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces any earlier listing:

1-22. (canceled)

23. (new) An article having an underwater surface, at least a portion of said surface being coated with a coating composition comprising:

(i) a compound for inhibiting the attachment of biofouling organisms on surfaces, the compound being of the formula (IA)



(IA)

wherein:

X' represents hydrogen or a straight or branched, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, or a straight or branched, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkenyl, and

Y represents C=O, HC-OR', or HC-Cl, wherein R' is a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen or acyl, formula (IA) including all isometric forms of said compound; and

(ii) a film forming agent, wherein said compound of formula (IA) is present in an amount effective to inhibit the attachment of biofouling organisms, including barnacles and phytoplankton, on a surface to which said composition is applied.

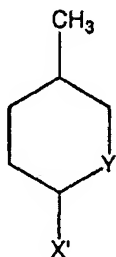
24. (new) The coated article according to claim 23, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of (-)trans-p-menthan-3,8-diol, (-)menthyl chloride, (-)menthone, menthoxypropanediol, and (-)isopulegol.

25. (new) The coated article of claim 23, wherein said compound is (-)menthol.

26. (new) The coated article of claim 23, wherein said compound is present in an amount from about 0.01 to about 50 percent by weight of said composition.

27. (new) The coated article of claim 23, where said coated article is selected from the group consisting of a ship hull, a piling or a water conduit.

28. (new) A method of protecting a surface from attachment of biofouling organisms, including barnacles and phytoplankton, said method comprising the steps of, providing a surface exposed to an aqueous environment, and applying a coating formulation to said underwater surface, wherein said coating formulation comprises a compound of the formula (IA):



U.S. Application No.: 10/729,047
Amendment A
Attorney Docket: 3968-097

(IA)

wherein:

X' represents hydrogen or a straight or branched, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, or a straight or branched, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkenyl, and

Y represents C=O, HC-OR', or HC-Cl, wherein R' is a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen or acyl, formula (IA) including all isometric forms of said compound